

LESSON 4: THE PARABLE OF THE LOST TREASURE AND PEARL

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Greenhouse Kids

 Matthew 13:44-46

03/29/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Matthew 13:44-46
- In This Passage: Jesus tells two very short stories. In one, a man finds a treasure in a field and sells everything to buy the field and get the treasure. In the other, a man finds a valuable pearl and gives up everything to buy the pearl. Joining the kingdom of God is more valuable than anything because God is a treasure.
- Bible Point: God is a treasure...
- Application: ...so we value him more than anything.
- Summary Verse: "For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does" (Psalm 33:4).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is a treasure*. Kids think concretely, so it's a lot easier for them to value tangible rather than abstract things. Most kids will easily agree that God is a treasure, but it's hard for them to know what that means practically. Help kids treasure God by putting him first and loving him more than anything else.
- Think About: What evidence is there that God is *your* treasure?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that God would move in kids' hearts to give them a genuine love for him and an authentic desire to value him more than anything.

Quick Tip

- Resist the temptation to guilt kids into treasuring God. Truly treasuring something or someone is a matter of the heart, and kids can't fake it with religious actions. Encourage kids to get to know God more because the more they know him, the more they will fall in love with him!

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids go on a scavenger hunt.

Supplies

- Bible
- “Scavenger Hunt List” handout (1 for every 5-6 kids) (download [here](#))
- paper lunch bags
- classroom supplies including paper, crayons, markers, index cards, and tissues
- permanent markers (1 for every 5-6 kids)
- stickers, cut apart but still on the backing (1 for every 2-3 kids)
- paper clips (3 for every 5-6 kids)
- Hershey’s Kisses (1 per child)
- small cardboard box
- green disposable tablecloth
- paper slips
- pens

Easy Prep

- Set out the classroom supplies kids will need for the scavenger hunt.
- Hide the permanent markers, stickers, and paper clips in different places.
- Put the Hershey’s Kisses in the cardboard box. Seal it so kids can’t reach inside.
- Write “TREASURE” on the cardboard box.
- Drape the box with the green tablecloth to represent a field.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids experience a sensory prayer.

Supplies

- Hershey’s Kisses*



OBJECT LESSON

Kids drink water to find treasure.

Supplies

- small, clear disposable cups (1 per child)
- quarters or dimes (1 per child) (you’ll get them back)
- drinking water in a bottle or pitcher



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids race to gather pearls.

Supplies

- plastic pearl beads or white beads (6 per child)
- 1 bucket or large bowl
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a version of Doggy, Doggy, Where's Your Bone?

Supplies

- fake coin or a sparkling piece of costume jewelry
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



CRAFT

Kids make a pearl and oyster craft.

Supplies

- paper bowls (2 per child)
- ping-pong balls (1 per child)
- Glue Dots
- crayons
- gem stickers (2-3 per child)
- yarn cut into 6-inch lengths (1 length per child)
- hole punch

Easy Prep

- Punch a hole in the rim of each paper bowl.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Find a picture of oyster shells and a picture of a pearl to print and show kids.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.

Supplies

- "Toy Treasure" teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Welcome

Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids give a fist bump to four friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say “happy birthday” with an extra “happy” as many times as the child is old. If the child is turning 7, they’d say, “Happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy birthday!”
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll find out that God is a treasure. Let’s start by thinking about any fun treasures we’ve found outside.**

Share

- Share about the coolest thing *you’ve* ever found outside. You might share about a flower, a bug, or even something someone was giving away on the curb.
- In small groups, have kids share about the coolest things *they’ve* ever found outside. Kids can share about anything they think is cool, but they might share about a toy they found at the playground or an interesting rock they found at the beach.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **We’ve all found some treasures! Today we’ll read in the Bible about some people who also found some amazing treasures. And we’ll learn from Jesus about how God is the greatest treasure of all! When we’re friends with God, it’s easy to see how amazing he is, and he shows us how to make him our number-one friend!**

Pray, thanking God that he’s a treasure.



Supplies

- Bible
- “Scavenger Hunt List” handout (1 for every 5-6 kids) (download [here](#))
- paper lunch bags
- classroom supplies including paper, crayons, markers, index cards, and tissues
- permanent markers (1 for every 5-6 kids)
- stickers, cut apart but still on the backing (1 for every 2-3 kids)
- paper clips (3 for every 5-6 kids)
- Hershey’s Kisses (1 per child)
- small cardboard box
- green disposable tablecloth
- paper slips
- pens

Easy Prep

- Set out the classroom supplies kids will need for the scavenger hunt.
- Hide the permanent markers, stickers, and paper clips in different places.
- Put the Hershey’s Kisses in the cardboard box. Seal it so kids can’t reach inside.
- Write “TREASURE” on the cardboard box.
- Drape the box with the green tablecloth to represent a field.

Find Treasure

Say: **Today we’re learning that God is a treasure, so let’s find some treasure! Some things we’re looking for are worth more points, so use strategy to get the most points you can in the time limit.**

Put groups in leader-led small groups of five or six kids each. Give each group a “Scavenger Hunt List” handout, a paper lunch bag, and a pen. Kids will work in their groups to get as many points as possible in six minutes. Adult and teen helpers will read the list for kids and help them keep track of everything they find. Explain that some of the items are hidden around the room and others are things they may have with them or that they can create using classroom supplies. Also let kids know not to look under the green tablecloth; that’s for a later experience.

Give kids a 1-minute, a 30-second, and a 10-second warning. When time’s up, they must be sitting with their bags and can’t be preparing any more items.

After six minutes, tally the points.

Ask: • **How did you feel every time you got points in the game?**

• **Why do you think some of the items were worth more points?**

• **What are some things that people consider valuable, or worth a lot in our world?**

Say: **Wait a second...no one got over 100 points? Why not? There were enough items that you could get well over 100! Pause for a reaction. Hmm...so you couldn’t find the treasure you really wanted. Let’s see what happened in the Bible when people *did* find the treasure they wanted.**

Discuss Treasure

Gather kids around the green tablecloth.

Read Matthew 13:44.

Say: **Let’s find the treasure in our field.** Have kids remove the green tablecloth to find the treasure. Allow kids to open the box and each take one Hershey’s Kiss, adding 100 points per child (not per group) to their score from the scavenger hunt.

Say: **In this game, the Hershey’s Kisses were obviously the most valuable, or important, item. And I just gave you one with no strings attached! Our Bible story shows us that God is a treasure, and**

the man in the story gave up everything to buy his treasure. That's because God is worth more than anything else we could ever treasure!

Now that we've taken our Hershey's Kisses, our treasure box is empty. Let's fill it with things that are so valuable or important that money can't buy them. Have kids share their ideas and write or draw them on paper slips to put in the box. Ideas could include love, family, health, or happiness.

Say: **Those are super valuable! But God is a treasure worth even more than those things because God made every one of the things. And if we have those things, it's because God gave them to us!**

Have kids randomly pull paper slips back out of the treasure box and, as a group, discuss how each treasure written on the papers ultimately came from God.

Write "God" on a slip of paper, and put it in the box. Say: **God is a treasure, so we value him more than anything. That means we think he's more important than anything else. We value him more than the things we looked for in the scavenger hunt, more than the things money can buy, and even more than the things money *can't* buy.**

Consider the Pearl

Read Matthew 13:45-46.

Ask: • **Why do you think the people in these two stories would think the treasure or the pearl was important enough to have that they'd sell everything they had?**

• **If I'd asked you to *trade* all your items and the points you had for the Hershey's Kiss—instead of getting it for free—would you have done it? Explain.**

• **Imagine you're on an empty beach—no other people around—and you find a \$20 bill. What would you do?**

Say: **In our Bible stories, the men were willing to sell everything they had because they found something they thought was even more important. We can imagine what their excitement would've felt like when we think about finding money.**

But God is a treasure worth way more than pearls, money, or things you'd find in a treasure box. Jesus taught that the Kingdom of heaven is worth giving everything up for. That means being part of God's family is the most valuable thing. And the best part is, *Jesus* already paid the price. Jesus died on the cross so that we can be part of the Kingdom of heaven. Just as you got the candy from me for free, Jesus offers you the chance to be in his family for free! That's why we place so much value on God. God is a treasure, so we value him more than anything.

Have kids hold on to their candy for the Life Application Wrap-Up section.



Supplies

- Hershey's Kisses*

Savor the Treasure

Say: **We've been learning that God is a treasure. Let's treasure him as we enjoy our chocolate treasures.**

- Have kids unwrap their Hershey's Kisses as they silently thank God for the treasures he's given them.
- Say: **As this sweet candy melts in our mouths, let's thank God for being the greatest treasure of all.**
- Have kids put the candies in their mouths, close their eyes, and slowly savor the candy while you pray: **Dear God, thank you that you are valuable above anything else we treasure. You are sweeter than chocolate and more precious than pearls or treasure boxes. Help us value you!**

Wrap Up

Pray: **God, we value you more than anything! Thank you for being such a treasure. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



Supplies

- small, clear disposable cups (1 per child)
- quarters or dimes (1 per child) (you'll get them back)
- drinking water in a bottle or pitcher

Put Coins Under Cups

Say: **I brought some money to show you. Money is a treasure because we can buy things we want with it.**

Tell about something *you'd* like to buy with your money. Perhaps you're saving for something big and special or you'd like to buy an ice cream treat.

Ask: • **What's something *you'd* like to buy with money?** Kids might have candy or a toy in mind.

Say: **We won't buy anything with this money today, but let's use it to try something that's pretty cool.**

- Give each child a coin and a cup.
- Have each child put a coin on the table and place a cup on top of the coin.
- Have kids sit in chairs about a foot away from the table, and ask them if they can see the coins.

Pour Water Into the Cups

Say: **We can see the coins under the cups. Now let's "bury" the coins with water!**

- Have kids remain seated, watching as an adult or teen helper pours water into the cups until they're about three-quarters full. From the kids' perspective, the coins will disappear.
- Ask kids if they still see the coins, and explain that the water has covered up the coins.

Drink the Water

Say: **In our Bible story, a man found buried treasure in a field, and he bought the *whole* field so he could have the treasure. Let's drink all our water so we can see the coins again.**

- Have kids drink the water.
- Then have kids put their empty cups back on the coins, and ask if they can see the coins through the cups again.

Talk About It

Exaggerate taking a refreshing drink, and then say: **Finding the treasure again was refreshing! Jesus is a treasure. He's even more precious and special than money.** Collect the coins, and have kids throw away their cups.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Pearl Pick Up

Supplies

- plastic pearl beads or white beads (6 per child)
- 1 bucket or large bowl
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Gather Pearls

Say: **Today we heard a story from the Bible about a man who was looking for pearls, which is a kind of treasure. When he found an amazing pearl, he sold everything he had to be able to buy it. Let's play a game where you'll try to gather pearls, too!**

- Place the bucket in the center of your room.
- Divide the pearl beads among your adult and teen helpers, and have the helpers spread out around the room and sit on the floor.
- Helpers will each place a pearl bead in one hand and then put their hands together at the wrists to mimic an open oyster with a pearl in it.
- Kids will run to the "Oysters" and try to get the pearl out of each Oyster before it closes (before the helper clasps the child's hand).
- If a child gets caught by an Oyster, he or she has to leave the pearl and try again with a different Oyster.
- If a child *does* get a pearl, he or she will run to put it in the bucket.
- Encourage helpers to have fun with it and be gentle when they clasp a child's hand.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play. Reset the pearls for another round if you have time.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you like about collecting the pearl treasure?**

Say: **In the game, we pretended the beads were valuable pearls that we cared a lot about. But the things in our lives that we care a lot about don't have to be pearls or money. We all have special things or people we care about, and sometimes we'll work really hard to get those things.**

Share about something *you* really wanted that you worked to get when you were younger. Maybe you saved up money for a neat toy or did an extra chore so your parents would take you to get ice cream.

Ask: • **What would you be willing to do to get something really special?** Help kids think of chores or other things they might do to earn something special.

Say: **Sometimes we have to work hard to get things we treasure, like we did in our game. But we don't have to do anything at all to be friends with God; all we have to do is trust in him, and he'll be the best friend we could ever imagine. He really is a treasure!**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Track the Treasure

Supplies

- fake coin or a sparkling piece of costume jewelry
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Play a Version of Doggy, Doggy, Where's Your Bone?

Say: **We read in the Bible today about how God is a treasure. Treasures are very special, and our best friend, God, has even more amazing treasures in heaven! Let's play a game where we'll try to find a treasure.**

- Have everyone sit close together in a circle.
- Invite a willing teen or adult helper to be the first person to sit in the center of the circle. He or she will try to track the "treasure" as kids pass the coin around the circle behind their backs.
- The person in the center will say, "Treasure, treasure, where are you? Treasure, treasure, I see you!" and then guess who has the coin.
- If the guess is correct, the person who had the coin will become the new Guesser.
- If the guess is incorrect, then a new round will start and the Guesser can try again.
- Allow each person three tries as the Guesser; then he or she can swap out with a new person who'd like to try to guess where the treasure is.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while everyone plays as many rounds as time allows.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Why did you want to find the treasure?**

Say: **Treasures are special and valuable. Treasures aren't always things like money or jewelry, and sometimes they're not even *things*. A lot of times treasures are people—our friends and families and others we love and care about. You're all treasures to God, and that's why God made a home in heaven for everyone who believes in him. God wants to be with us always because he loves us so much. God is a treasure because of his amazing love for us, and that means we can treasure God more than anything or anyone else.**



CRAFT

Oyster Shell Treasure Bank

[20 min]

Supplies

- paper bowls (2 per child)
- ping-pong balls (1 per child)
- Glue Dots
- crayons
- gem stickers (2-3 per child)
- yarn cut into 6-inch lengths (1 length per child)
- hole punch

Easy Prep

- Punch a hole in the rim of each paper bowl.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Find a picture of oyster shells and a picture of a pearl to print and show kids.



Decorate “Shells”

Say: **Earlier we heard a story Jesus told his friends to help them know that God is a treasure! In the story, a man sold everything he had to buy a pearl. A pearl is a special treasure found in between the shells of an oyster in the ocean. Show kids the sample craft. Let’s make a craft that looks like a pearl inside an oyster to remind us of Jesus’ story!**

- Give each child two paper bowls.
- Have kids color the insides of the bowls.
- Give each child a ping-pong ball, and help glue it in the middle of one of the bowls.
- Then let kids finish decorating the inside of both bowls with gem stickers.

Make Treasure Banks

- Once kids have finished decorating, give them each a length of yarn to loop through each hole in the rims of their bowls.
- Have them loosely tie the bowls together.



- Have kids set one bowl on top of the other, with the ping-pong ball “pearl” in the bottom bowl.

Say: **Our craft looks pretty plain on the outside, just like an oyster does.** Show kids the picture of oyster shells. **Oysters don’t have pretty shells on the outside, and they don’t look like anything special. But when you look inside the shells, you’ll find the beautiful pearls that are worth so much!**

Have kids open their treasure banks, and show kids the picture of a pearl.

Say: **These treasure banks can remind us that God is more special than we can ever understand or know. And the more time we spend with God, the more God helps us discover that God is a treasure!**



Supplies

- “Toy Treasure” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

Discuss and Watch “Toy Treasure”

Say: **The people in our Bible stories found a treasure so valuable, they gave up everything to get it! Let's see what happens when some dogs sniff out a valuable treasure.**

Watch “Toy Treasure.”

Ask: • **Why do you think Peanut and Biscuit were so excited to find their new toys?**

• **Tell about a time you were excited to get something new.** Share your own story first.

Say: **Peanut and Biscuit found some old toys along the way, but they left them behind and were excited to find the new toys. And we can be even more excited about Jesus than the dogs were about finding new toys! God is a treasure, so we value him more than anything. There's nothing we have that's worth more than God!**